

The *Avila College Student Voice* TALON

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NOVEMBER 18, 1994

VOLUME III, ISSUE 5

Inside...

Traditions

* Over the river and through the woods



Holiday Meals

* What do deer, lobster, raccoon and dumplings have in common?



* The real meaning of the holidays according to the retail sector

From the Talon we



would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving, Hannukah, Christmas and New Year!

illustrations by
Sara Ellerman

Special Holiday Edition

The true spirit of the holiday

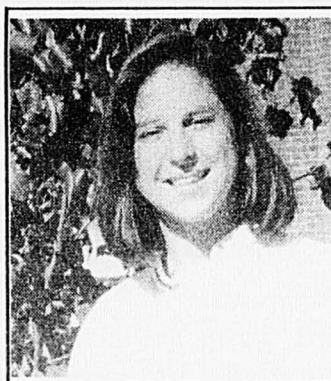
season

text by:
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Monica Haughness, contributing writer

layout by:
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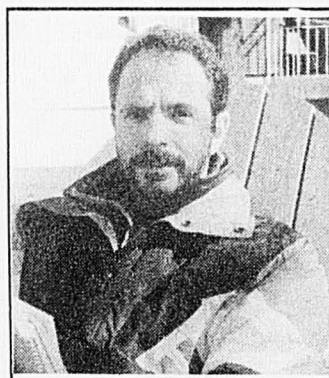
Glowing church steeples with luminary paths and manger scenes, menorahs shining hope for eight nights in December, feelings of intense love and graciousness for those in our presence—all encompass the spirit that sweeps us and leaves us wishing we could feel that great all year long. Hearts and minds are inspired and empowered with great expectations and visions for the approaching year.

Everyone has special traditions and their own beliefs about what the holidays mean. For some, the holidays hold religious and spiritual significance. The following Avila students reflected on the religious or spiritual meaning that affects them this time of year.



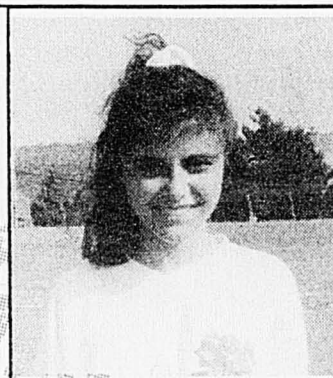
Shonette Micco, sophomore, biology major
"I gain my spiritual strength at the holidays from being with loved ones. My family members come from many different religious backgrounds, but when we come together, all that matters is the love we have for each other. That is what the holiday means to me."

Garrett Lahey, junior, biology major
"Christmas has been overconsumerized, Santa Claus has actually taken meaning away from the holiday. When I was a child, I thought Santa was the higher power of the season because he decided the outcome of Christmas morning. That has changed drastically over time, and now I celebrate a very Christ centered Christmas. My family still exchanges gifts, but we are not so involved in the giving and getting and it has become much more meaningful that way. We focus on the miracle of Jesus' birth and the impact it has had on the last 2000 years of history."



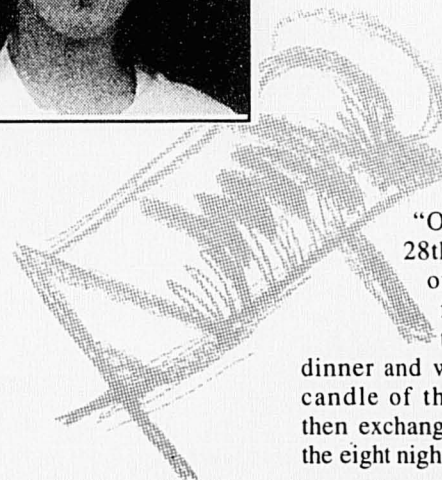
Jerry Clair, returning student, english major
"Spirituality and faith are with me all year long. But, Thanksgiving, especially, is a time of recognition. It is a time to give thanks to God for what we have: family, friends, health, and most of all the Savior we have in Him, Jesus Christ. Christmas, again, is a symbol that not only recognizes but enhances the meaning and spirit of giving celebrated to a greater degree at Christmas. This spirit of giving is present during the holidays and throughout our lives."

Luana Cumpton, senior, communication major
"The holidays have great meaning in my life. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the many blessing God enhances us with. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child. I am a devout Christian who strongly believes in the power of God. For me and my family, Christmas must be a spiritual and religious celebration. The holidays are a time to gather with friends and family and a time to spread God's love to those who are less fortunate."



Hisako Suka, senior, art major
"The first three days of January are holy days when we get together with family and eat."

Jason Reif, sophomore, pre-med major
"On November 28th, the first night of Hannukah, my family joins together for dinner and we light the first candle of the menorah. We then exchange gifts, initiating the eight nights of tradition."



TRADITIONS

Holiday traditions are as diverse as Avila's community

Text by:
Valerie Hudson,
contributing writer
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Sarah Lathrom

"On Christmas morning, everyone in my family goes for their stocking first."



Families have unique ways of celebrating the holidays. Tradition is a big part of the season. Every family has something they do just a little different from anyone else. No matter how big or small, tradition makes the occasion special and meaningful. Here are some of the various traditions represented on the Avila campus.



Senior elementary education major Yvonne McFeders said, "We go to my sister-in-law's house and play a card game called 'In Between.' Everyone saves up from Christmas to Christmas to play. It gets to where we use our Christmas money!"

Jennifer Harris, a senior elementary education major, and Carol Keiper, a medical technology major both attend Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Carol Keiper's family opens one present from one family member on Christmas Eve. According to Jennifer Harris, "everybody in my family meets after Midnight Mass for wine, cheese, and eggnog."



"Children get a red envelope on New Years with money in it. This is a symbol of good luck. We use this money to buy our gifts," says sophomore elementary education major Jenny Kao.

"I'm going to Hawaii for 10 days—maybe," says Dyanne Bean who is a senior marketing major. "A year ago, we cashed in our TWA frequent flyer miles for a post-graduation trip. If you follow the news, you know why our trip may not happen."

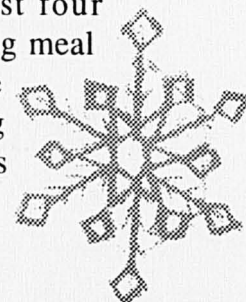
"New Years is very important in Japan," reveals one international student. "Usually, we go to a shrine or temple for a ceremony. We hope for health and prosperity."

As members of the Talon staff, we would like to share our holiday traditions as part of this special issue. We would also like to wish you and your family a happy holiday season.

"My name is Amanda Mabey. I'm a freshman communications major. On Christmas morning, everyone in my family

goes for their stocking first. Then, my dad climbs under the tree (which is no small feat) and passes out presents. My mom is always the last one done because she's too busy watching everyone else."

"I'm Valerie Hudson, a senior communications major. Christmas traditions have changed for my family over the years. In the past, everyone would meet at my aunt's house for Christmas dinner. After dinner we exchanged gifts, maybe you received a good gift and maybe you didn't. Within the past four years, my mother cooks a big meal and the two of us stay home and eat all day while enjoying basketball or football games on TV."



Holster your gun and strap on your feed bag

Text by:

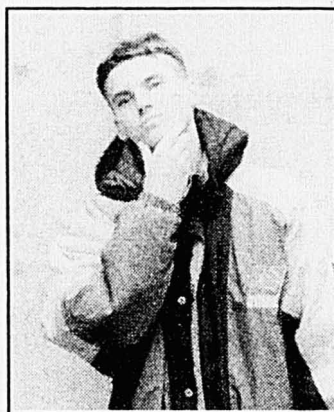
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Eugene Troyer, opinion editor

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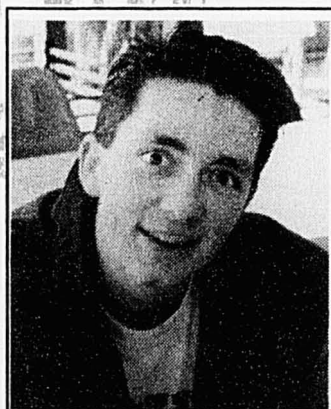
Nell Kuestermeyer

While some people dread the holidays because of the extra baggage they acquire to their mid section, there are a number of people that are ready to eat everything that is not bolted down.

As many people sit down to the traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners of turkey, ham, potatoes and stuffing, others will sit down to the dinner table and look at something completely different.

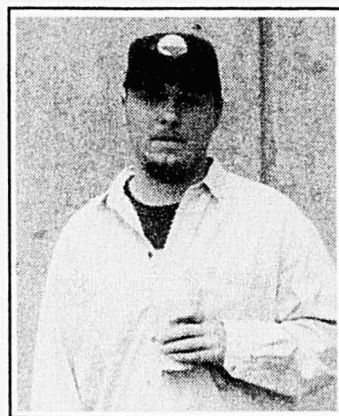
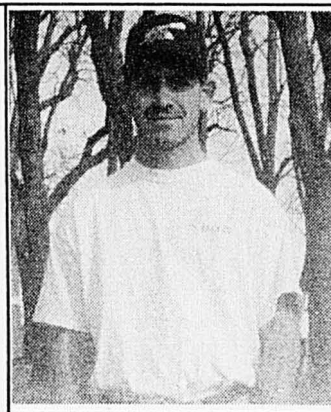


Other students also spend part of their holidays stalking various animals in the woods. "I usually plan to go out and bring home a goose, pluck it and help the family eat it. But we usually settle on turkey and Grandma's famous oyster stuffing and fudge that makes the holiday season a little sweeter," freshman biology major Rodney Wittenburg added.



The holiday seasons are fast approaching and while many people are thinking about getting to see their families, there are some people that are looking forward to the foods that are associated with the holidays.

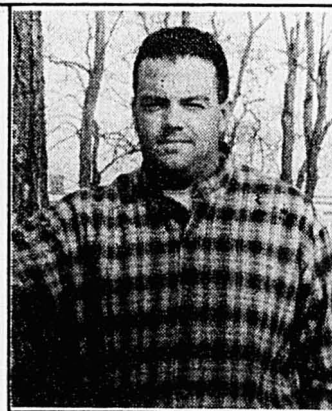
While many people run to the store to get their holiday meal, there are still those that live for the hunt and head off into the woods to bring home the Butter Ball. Gary Haarmann, senior communication major, commented, "If the hunting is good, we try to have wild turkey for Thanksgiving and deer for Christmas dinner. If not, Grandma Haarmann is in the kitchen slaving away."



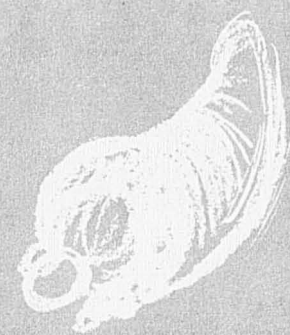
Senior history major Wes Halsey had this say about the holidays. "My brothers normally kill a goose for Thanksgiving dinner and then I am in charge killing a raccoon for Christmas dinner."

As members of The Talon we wanted to include our views in this special holiday issue. While some people have the traditional turkey and ham for the holidays and others kill their dinner, a few of us enjoy something fishy.

Opinion editor, Eugene "Buckets" Troyer, commented, "We try to keep it on the traditional side, the same as our founding fore-fathers. We have enough plump turkey and moist ham so that we can eat left-overs to start off the New Year."



"For the past six years my family has made it our tradition to have shrimp and lobster on Thanksgiving," said Jered Steen managing editor.



"...there are still those that live for the hunt and head off into the woods to bring home the Butter Ball."

The commercialist rampage of the holiday season

text by:
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manager
Marlo Boots, sports editor

layout by:
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manager

From the Mighty

Morphon Power

Rangers to the food

dehydrator, Christmas

retailers have emerged

as the real Santa Claus

for the holiday season

Retail commercialism of the holidays has overshadowed the true meaning of the holiday season. Is the gift you give from the heart or just something to pacify the recipient? Are you trying to impress that special someone with an expensive materialistic present that seems to burn a hole the size of Santa's belly in your pocketbook? Or are you trying to tell someone that they are special in their own way by making a gift that entices the sentimentality of even the nastiest of Scrooge's?

The idea of Christmas has evolved into a mad rush to buy Jerry, the nerdy cousin only seen at Grandma's house, a pair of black socks. Family tradition used to emphasize tree trimming, snow angels, and the birth of Jesus Christ. No act of commercialization would be as symbolic as the former President George Bush did in 1991, by inaugurating the holiday season, not in a church, but in a shopping mall.

Students Beth Marvin and Natalie Slayton reflect on the problems of the holiday season.

"Many children don't even know the real meaning of Christmas," said Marvin, senior history major.

"How can kids understand the meaning of Christmas, when it's not even practiced in the home," added Slayton, an education certification student.

Many families have different traditions, but almost all that celebrate Christmas, spend quality time together with the gift giving process being the highlight of their Christmas events.

According to the Dec. 1993 issue of *American Demographics* magazine, the gift giver can be categorized into six different gift giving roles. The *Pleaser*, *Provider*, *Compensator*, *Socializer*, *Acknowledger*, and the *Avoider*. Each role demonstrates its own holiday characteristics.

- The *Pleaser* buys gifts for their closest friends and loved ones to make them

happy and to strengthen friendships and relationships.

- The *Provider* purchases practical gifts for the recipient regardless of what he/she want, rather what he/she needs. Did you ever ask for socks on your holiday list?
- The *Compensator*, not as popular as the others, is a gift giver that tries to express sympathy for a large loss in the recipient's life.
- The *Socializer's* gift has a point. This type of giver purchases a gift to strengthen any weaknesses in the receiver's life. Your professor would assume this role when he/she handed you a book entitled, "How to barely pass" for the holiday season.
- The *Acknowledger* is the basic business person. This means distant relatives, co-workers, and other casual friends would receive a gift from the giver.
- The *Avoider* simply does not give a gift at all. Resembling a Scrooge like character.

So, have you picked out the type of giver that you are?

We asked around campus and found that many students felt that the holiday season is very commercialized really more to them than just gift giving.

According to Pam Havens, sophomore radiology major, the secular aspect of Christmas is not as important as the religious aspect of the holiday.

"I don't like the idea of Christmas trees and Santa Claus," Haven said. "I view the holiday season as the birth of Jesus Christ."

It seems that Christmas and the holiday season has come down to two things: research and retail. Researchers have determined the payday that the holiday seasons will bring by counting shopping bags and the number of cars in the mall parking lot. Christmas has been narrowed down to

gift giving and not making Christmas cookies and singing carols. Why do we participate in the commercialization of the holidays?

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crews

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